



Critical Investments: Career and College – Ready, Set, Go!

Even in these tough economic times, Gov. Perdue remains committed to her goal of preparing every student to graduate from high school ready for college, a career or technical training. While this budget makes a series of targeted reductions to K-12 that are designed to create savings while having as little impact on students as possible, it makes critical investments in preparing students to be competitive in the 21st century.

While most agencies received a 5% to 7% cut, education was cut less than 4%. The budget also protects all K-3 classrooms, including both teachers and teacher assistants, from cuts. The budget recommends administrative efficiencies and allows local school systems the flexibility to choose where savings can be implemented. It also protects teachers jobs by mandating that local jurisdictions maximize federal funds and use attrition as a means of personnel management.

Some highlights:

K-12

- \$61 million for the experienced-based step for teacher salary schedule employees to ensure that North Carolina does not fall farther behind our goal to reach the national average. In addition, teachers and state employees are being paid back for the salary reduction taken to balance the FY 2008-09 budget.
- \$39 million for diagnostic assessments in grades K-3 and grade 5, so we can get to kids before they fall behind in school. These funds would be used to purchase hand-held devices for each teacher to allow for immediate student-specific feedback regarding mastery of math and science concepts.
- \$2 million to support diagnostic assessments in math, science, reading and writing for students in grades 8 and 11.
- An additional \$11 million for North Carolina Virtual Public Schools which will serve an estimated 43,000 enrollees next year. This program provides access to courses not offered in a student's school that support credit recovery, graduation and accelerated learning opportunities.
- \$2 million for Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) to provide all teachers with value-added tests and to support a statewide web application that includes student projections, diagnostics, and customized student planning.



Gov. Perdue's FY 10-11 Budget Proposal

Community Colleges

- \$85 million to meet enrollment demands in the community college system. This represents a 15.8% increase over 2009-10, approximately 34,118 full-time equivalent students.
- \$2.5 million to upgrade equipment and technology needs in the community colleges to train students for today's workforce.
- \$6.5 million to expand need-based financial aid support for community college students.

UNC System

- \$5.6 million for enrollment increases in the UNC System.
- \$14 million to support campus buildings coming online 2010-11.
- \$35 million for need-based financial aid in the UNC system, which will cover approximately 4,600 new students.